

**East Greenwich School Committee**  
**Tuesday, December 17, 2013**  
**Archie R. Cole Middle School Library**  
**100 Cedar Avenue**  
**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**6:39 p.m. Executive Session, Mrs. Winters made a motion to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under General Laws of Rhode Island §42-46-5(a) (2) (8) Teacher Negotiations. Ms. Mark seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.**

**Those in attendance were Mr. David Green, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair (arrived at 6:51 p.m.); Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Ms. Carolyn Mark; Mr. Jack Sommer; and Mrs. Susan Records (arrived at 6:49 p.m.). Mr. Clark Smith was absent. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration; and Mr. Bradley Wilson, Director of Student Services were also present.**

**7:01 p.m. Regular Meeting**

**I. Call to Order**

**The meeting was already in session.**

**II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

**The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

### **III. Public Comments**

**There were no public comments.**

### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

#### **a. Regular and Executive for December 3, 2013**

**On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the minutes for December 3, 2013.**

### **V. Superintendent's Report**

**Dr. Mercurio discussed his recent call from Mr. Patti, who is currently in China. Mr. Patti discussed the possibility of a Mandarin instructor from China for a three-year period. This opportunity is through the U.S.-China Institute at Bryant University. The Confucius Classroom that was discussed at the last meeting presented a strict timeline, which was not possible at this time. This topic will be discussed at the January 21, 2014 School Committee meeting. Dr. Mercurio would like to formally recognize EGHS student Andrew Miner for receiving the 2013 Heisman Award. The PTG presidents' saw a presentation on "You be the Chemist" and will work individually with their building principal. One lower and one upper elementary school may participate. Dr. Mercurio will forward the website link to Committee members. Strategic Planning Ad-Hoc Committee artifacts were provided to Committee members. District leadership has recently met and provided input. Their input will be forwarded to School Committee members. A future workshop will be scheduled with the School Committee to determine the course of action.**

### **VI. School Committee Concerns**

**There were no concerns.**

## **VII. Action Items**

**a. Resignation- April Tandy, Paraprofessional, Meadowbrook Farms School**

**b. Retirement- Richard Saborio, Eldredge School**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Ms. Mark, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve items a & b.**

**c. Appointment of 1-year only (2013-2014) French/World Language Teacher, Danielle Campbell**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Ms. Mark, the Committee voted**

**6-0 to approve the appointment.**

**d. Approval of Field Trips**

**1. Cole Ski Trip, Sunday River, Maine, January 24-26, 2014**

**2. Cole Grade 8, Washington, DC, May 25-28, 2014**

**On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve both Cole field trips.**

**e. Approval of Ultimate Frisbee Club-EGHS**

**Mr. Egan and several Cole students were present to explain the details of the club.**

**This activity currently runs at Cole as an enrichment group through the PTG. Coach Egan said participation has been high at Cole with about 50 participants. He is seeking approval for a year round club at EGHS and Cole. This activity is not recognized as a sport by the RIIL. There was discussion regarding scheduling as Mr. Cobain sets the schedules. Mr. Egan said the sport can be played inside or**

outside and grass is preferable. There is no financial impact because there are no uniforms, bussing, equipment, or stipends for coaches. Coaches do need School Committee approval and the appropriate background checks. There was a lengthy discussion surrounding insurance and liability for transportation. Dr. Mercurio will get clarification from counsel and The Trust. On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 6-0 to table this item until the January 7, 2014 meeting. The high school and Cole will go for approval.

**f. Special Education Advisory Committee**

**1. Appointment of East Greenwich Special Education Advisory Committee Co-Leaders**

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the appointment of Ebru Marino, Cherie Cruz, and Donna Perry as co-leaders. The Committee requested a list of previous committee members so a blanket vote may be taken to eliminate them.

**2. Approval of East Greenwich Special Education Advisory Committee By- Laws**

Mr. Wilson explained the need to re-establish the Special Education Advisory Committee, which is mandated by federal and state law. Ms. Mark made a motion, which was approved by Mr. Sommer to approve the by-laws. The vote was 2-4 (Ms. Mark and Mr. Sommer voting to approve). There was a lengthy discussion regarding previous by-laws, which were not available. Dr. Gifford and other members would like to review and compare the previous by-laws with the

suggested by-laws prior to voting.

**g. Second Read/Adoption of Policies**

**1. Policy #10-210 Internet Safety Policy**

This policy is to ensure compliance with the Children's Privacy Protection Act (CIPA). Mrs. Records had questions regarding the definition of access to the Internet. This policy will go back to the Policy Committee for clarification. Mr. Green asked all members to email any further questions to the Policy Committee members prior to the January 3, 2014 meeting.

**2. Policy #8435 Waiver to R.I. State Assessment Graduation Requirement Protocol**

Language (noted in red) was inserted from suggested revisions from the first read. Mrs. Egan, an East Greenwich parent, presented suggested revisions to the Educational Review Committee (add a Special Education teacher and ESL teacher). She also questioned why the Superintendent is on the Committee since he receives the recommendation and why a School Committee member would participate. Dr. Mercurio noted the members listed on the East Greenwich draft are more specific than the state and noted the draft does state "or designees." This policy will go back to the Policy Committee for revisions on January 3, 2014. Mr. Sommer made a motion to table policies #10-210 and #8435, which will go back to the Policy Committee for additional review and editing. Mrs. Winters seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

**h. Wireless Classroom Initiative Grant Approval**

The grant for \$229,136.67 will be allocated to all schools except

**EGHS. Legal counsel has reviewed this agreement. After receiving School Committee approval and RIDE approval, the successful vendor will be presented for School Committee approval.**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Ms. Mark, the Committee voted**

**6-0 to approve the grant.**

### **VIII. Presentation 1:1 Technology**

**Mr. Green noted that Dr. Mercurio is seeking direction on the 1:1 initiative. Dr. Mercurio gave a presentation on 1:1 technology outlining research, professional development needs, costs, program changes, and a proposed implementation schedule. Mr. Podraza and Mrs. Meyers discussed the benefits and challenges of 1:1 technology.**

**Title II funds will be used to support professional development. Race to the Top Dollars will fund other areas such as common core. Mr. Green asked about “initiative overload” in conjunction with instituting 1:1 technology. Dr. Mercurio said 1:1 would give time back to the teacher, as it will eliminates time spent copying and passing out papers. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the suggested professional development, comfort levels of teachers, and why this initiative should be prioritized over other areas such as all-day kindergarten. Mr. Green noted a committee has not been charged yet to look at all day kindergarten. A committee will be established in January and tasked to present a recommendation in the spring for the 2015-2016 school year. The Committee asked Dr. Mercurio to come back with additional research on measurable goals specific to 1:1 technology showing the specific benefits to students**

and how it leads to higher achievement. The Committee also wants a plan for future funding with the options presented. Mr. Green asked the Committee to prepare to vote on 1:1 technology, as a decision needs to be made for the upcoming FY2015 budget.

## **IX. Sub Committee Update**

### **a. Technology Advisory Committee**

Mrs. Records noted the 1:1 presentation covered the recent meeting.

## **X. Discussion**

### **a. Transportation Management**

Mrs. Crawford discussed the rapport and the roles of the bus company and administration. She also discussed various incidents and who should receive the call (i.e., administration, bus company, building principal). Incidents related to bus drivers or monitors should be reported to Mrs. Crawford. The district has the final decision on removing drivers or monitors. Last fall there was an incident where a child asked the bus driver to show her where her friend lives. The parent did not report this incident to the bus company for several days. Once administration was informed, the bus driver was removed within two hours of the phone call. Tony Murgo, the President of Ocean State Transit, also contacted the parent. Issues regarding a bus running late or questions regarding pick up/drop off times/locations should go through Deb Murphy. New procedures have been implemented which include uniform shirts with name badges for bus drivers and monitors. The bus company is developing protocols/expectations for parents and students. They plan to have a document ready for January. Mr. Green asked if a

**section on the district website (under transportation) can list potential issues and the contact. The bus transportation bid will go out early next year. The Policy Committee is looking to create a policy for outside vendors that could be incorporated into all RFPs.**

#### **XI. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Ms. Mark, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted**

**6-0 to adjourn at 9:57p.m.**

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO  
SECRETARY**